This leaves the obviousness rejection over the combined disclosures of Takahashi and Yoshikawa for consideration. As further explained below, this combination of disclosures fails to present a *prima facie* case against the pending claims.

Succinctly stated, neither Takahashi nor Yoshikawa discuss, disclose or suggest a heat-treated adhesive layer comprising a chlorinated rubber and a chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubber. This adhesive layer is described, for example, at specification page 5, lines 9-19. This material similarly is used in Examples 1-4, and shows excellent results (note Table 1 at specification page 9).

Yes → Takahashi does "heat-treated" is process limitation

Because the disclosures of the applied references, even when combined, fail to disclose or suggest the particular combination of limitations present in pending independent Claims 1 and 6, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. The reasons that this case is allowable include those explained above, and those explained on July 10, 2002. In this art those of ordinary skill know what a resilient metal wire is and how it must behave in a shrinkage control material or elastomeric molding.

Regardless, the particular claimed combination of limitations present in the now-pending claims clearly establishes their patentability, and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Richard L. Treanor, Ph.D.
Registration No. 36,379

22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
RLT\la
I:\atty\RLT\198224us-am2.wpd

Marked-Up Copy
Serial No: 09/680,401
Amendment Filed on:
HEREWITH

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6 and 18 as follows:

--1. (Twice Amended) A shrinkage control material comprising:

a resilient metal wire; and

[an] a heat treated adhesive layer on the metal wire, the adhesive layer having adhesion to elastomeric material, wherein the adhesive layer comprises [a halogenated polymer-based or olefin-based adhesive] a chlorinated rubber and a chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubber, and the adhesive layer is from 5 μm to 25 μm thick.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

6. (Twice Amended) A elastomeric molding comprising:

a shrinkage control material having:

a resilient metal wire; and

[an] a heat treated adhesive layer on the metal wire, the adhesive layer having adhesion to elastomeric material; and

a elastomeric extrusion around an outer periphery of the shrinkage control material, the elastomeric extrusion being bonded by vulcanization to the shrinkage control material, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a [halogenated polymer-based or olefin-based adhesive] a chlorinated rubber and a chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubber, the adhesive layer is from 5

μm to 25 μm thick, and wherein the elastomeric extrusion comprises an ethylene-propylene-diene ternary copolymer.

Claims 8-17 (Canceled)

18. (Amended) The shrinkage control material as claimed in claim [11] 1, wherein the thickness of the adhesive layer is from 12 to 22 μm.--